

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE

Forestry Sciences Laboratory, P.O. Box 909, Juneau, Alaska 99801

#2345  
REPLY TO: 5230 Evaluation

SUBJECT: Hemlock Sawfly Outbreak at Ward Lake



TO: Russ Lockhart, T.M.  
Region 10

My reply to your request for clarification of the roles of the various species of insects that have caused defoliation near Ward and Connell Lakes is as follows:

The saddleback looper caused some defoliation near Connell Lake in conjunction with the hemlock sawfly but the looper population collapsed in 1969. Since then it has been in the area at endemic levels and poses no further threat.

The sawfly continued to defoliate in 1970 and 1971 but damage was not severe. In 1972 sawfly populations caused severe defoliation in the area near Ward Lake. Some trees will die and some will be top-killed, if not already. As of October, 1972 there is a sizable sawfly egg population present in the area, and more damage can be expected to occur in 1973. Although we expect starvation, parasites and disease to knock the population down at Ward Lake next year, additional damage may occur beforehand, and the population could spread.

Don Curtis' concern with the budworm is that it has been increasing in the area near Ketchikan for the past two years (although no defoliation noticeable from the air has yet occurred) and significant numbers of budworm eggs were found at Ward Lake during the biological evaluation of the sawfly infestation. Since it is a potentially more damaging insect than the sawfly, Don thought that this should be the target insect if a control program is proposed. If the summer of 1973 is warmer than normal, we can expect both the sawfly and the budworm to cause more damage than has occurred so far.

Incidentally, Russ, we in FIR make a practice of having I & DC's people review our reports and manuscripts. I'd like to have the same courtesy extended to us concerning I & DC's reports. If this had happened in the past I know that some errors in the Annual Conditions Reports could have been avoided.

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